

CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-24 (canceled)

25. (currently amended) A drug-loaded particle formulation method comprising:

adding polymeric particles containing a therapeutic substance to a fluid form of an implantable medical device coating material, wherein the coating material includes a polymeric material dissolved in a solvent, and wherein the polymeric particles containing the therapeutic substance are suspended in the polymeric material dissolved in the solvent;

applying the fluid form of the coating material comprising the polymeric particles added thereto to an implantable medical device; and

solidifying the coating material to a film layer by allowing the solvent to evaporate, wherein the film layer includes the polymeric particles containing the therapeutic substance.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the implantable medical device is a stent.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (previously presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the polymeric particles are made by water-in-oil emulsion.

31. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the polymeric particles have a hydrogel consistency.

32. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the therapeutic substance is for the treatment of restenosis.

33. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 25, wherein the therapeutic substance is a radioactive isotope.

34. (new) The method of Claim 25, wherein the film layer includes the polymeric material encasing the polymeric particles.